



Ambassador

L E N T E N S E R I E S

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- February 5 Primary Electio9n
- February 6 at 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion
- February 17 After the service Parish Nurses

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This year's series is "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem," Jesus said to his disciples, one of many roads on which we may confront the Christ during this solemn season.

Lent begins on **The Road to Damascus**, where life is given a new direction.

On **The Road to the Wilderness** the Holy Spirit leads us from baptism (Jesus' and our own) to confrontation with temptation.

The prodigal son shows us the wisdom (and the necessity) of seeking **The Road Home**.

The disciple Peter becomes a roadblock on **The Road to Jerusalem**,

prompting Jesus to say, "Get behind me, Satan!" and invite us to take up the cross and follow.

As the good Samaritan stopped on **The Road to Jericho**, so Jesus stops to care for us in our needs and teach us to "do likewise."

The Bethany Road leads to the home of Mary and Martha and the funeral of their brother Lazarus, and then on to Jerusalem for the Palm Sunday parade.

Maundy Thursday takes us down **The Road to Gethsemane**, where we are called, as Jesus' disciples were called, to watch and pray.

On Good Friday we

travel, at last, **The Road to Calvary**, and watch, as the silent Son of God saves the world upon the cross.

And finally, **The Road Continues**, on Easter Sunday—continues beyond the path to the empty tomb ... and even the road to Emmaus—to every day of our lives, and eternity, at last.

Volunteers are still needed for dramatic Introductions (except for Ash Wednesday). They are brief, two-character, dramatic introductions for each service, and set the tone and theme for each service..

L S A N E W S

The LSA has formed a call committee to search for a new superintendent. Mr. Ryherd will be leaving March 15. After the superintendent's position is filled, a search for a new high school princi-

ple will begin. Interviews are ongoing for a development director.

The 8th grade students continue to help at Good Samaritan Inn monthly, and at the LSA Resale Shop. LSA High School

students continue their weekly ministry at Fairhaven Christian home. These activities, among others, are an effort to help our students integrate the truths of God's Word

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LADIES GUILD

2007 was a busy year for the Concordia Ladies Guild. During the the year, we raised \$20,501. I am pleased to report that the Guild spent \$20,225 to support a multitude of projects and missions, locally and district wide.

We began the year with a Pancake Breakfast Benefit to assist Nick Gosnell with the purchase of a new motorized wheelchair. What an overwhelming response to our Saturday morning breakfast, the Guild made \$5378, gave \$1,000 and Thrivent Financial matched \$5,000. In addition, we donated funds to our district's LWML mission projects, supported our seminary student, donated money to the Rory McKinney Fund and to the Meredith Robling Education Fund. From the 2 rummage sales and Chicken Noodle dinner, the Guild was able to purchase all new windows for the parsonage.

According to the bylaws, the Guild gives an annual financial report to the Church Council, but we believe that the entire congregation benefits from knowing the work we do to support our church and fulfill our mission. Below is a recap of the receipts and disbursements from 2007. Our hope is that more of the women in the church would be willing to help in the coming year.

Receipts

Mission Sunday	769.00
Gift Center (cards, crafts)	584.00
Mtg. & Mite Offerings	234.00
Quilts	300.00
Rummage Sales	5935.00
Chicken & Noodle Dinner	1239.00
Gosnell Benefit	6378.00
Thrivent Match (Gosnell)	5000.00
Misc. (donation, interest)	62.00
Total	\$20,501.00

Disbursements

District Missions	286.00
Seminary Student	956.00
Meredith Robling Mem.	500.00
Rory McKinney Fund	261.00
Easter & Xmas	210.00
Windows – parsonage	5052.00
Gosnell Wheelchair proj.	11,379.00
Tucker Mem. Dinner	82.00
Pastor – 25 th Anniv.	83.00
New hymnals (altar)	353.00
Kitchen Supplies	334.00
Event Supplies/Adv.	624.00
Misc. Exp.	105.00
Total	\$20,225.00

LIFE IS LIVED IN THE TRENCHES

We now climb down from the Mount of Transfiguration into the “Valley of the Shadow of Death.”

We thrill at the beauty of Jesus transfigured before us and the majestic voice of God assuring us this is His only Son and the Savior of the world.

The work of the Savior does not take place in glory or on a mountain. It takes place on a hill and on a cross. It takes place in pain and suffering in the midst of sinners He came to redeem.

Likewise, the life of a Christian is not always a mountain top experiences. We spend most of our time in the trenches

battling against the devil, the world and our own sinful nature.

The struggle does not seem glamorous and for us the victory does not seem certain. While the battle goes on around us, we know the victory has been won in the blood of Jesus Christ.

We need to lift up our heads above the battle fray and look to the cross of Jesus, the symbol and implement of our victory and take courage and be emboldened until we reach heaven. This is God's certain promise to all who trust in Jesus for forgiveness. It is certain purchased and sealed in Jesus' blood.



Larry Wade and these members of the choir attended a choir workshop at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

WHY ASH WEDNESDAY?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

GIVING IS HEALTHY FOR US

Abraham Brunk, a professor and researcher in the Netherlands, found that people oriented toward giving and sharing are more physically and emotionally fit than their self-focused and less generous peers.

Brunk's study showed that givers use 50 percent fewer sick days. They also have lower blood pressure and higher self-esteem.

The anonymous poet who wrote the following words was right on target:



Give strength, give thought, give deeds, give of your wealth,
Give love, give tears, and give thyself.
Give, give, always giving.
Who gives not is not living;
The more you give, the more you live.



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into the way they live their lives. Our hope is that these positive experiences will contribute to a mindset of service that will continue throughout our students' lives.

Both junior high school and high school students are involved in leading chapel services, through music, read-

ings, etc., in an attempt to provide them with experience in publicly sharing their faith.

The LSA placed in the top five schools that collected food for the hungry through the WSOY/Catholic Charities Food Drive. A cash prize accompanied that recognition; the cash

prize was donated to the Northeast Community Fund, to further help to feed the hungry.

National Lutheran Schools Week is coming March 2-8. A "Lutheran Education" focus will be part of the service on March 2.

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

Just for KIDS

LOVE

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF LUKE 10:27

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."



CHALICE AND CROSS

The chalice is a symbol of Holy Communion. The pointed cross is known as the Passion Cross, Agony Cross or Cross of Suffering. Together these symbols represent the agony of Christ's passion and his obedient suffering.

• "Many things I have tried to grasp and have lost. That which I have placed in God's hands, I still have."
-Martin Luther

• "Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not."
-C.S. Lewis

In the Lord's service for February:

Greeters

Elder

Feb. 3 Kent & Michelle Campbell

Feb. 10 Duane & Deanna Chandler

Howard Brown

Feb. 17 Dwight & Melba Stockdale

Feb. 24 Clifford & Ellen Clark

Bob Doddek

Ushers: Bob McNulty, Jim Hickman, Clifford Clark & Wayne Hull

Altar: Sandy Gosnell